

MESON PRODUCTION ON THE NUCLEON IN THE GIESSEN K-MATRIX APPROACH*

H. LENSKA, V. SHKLYAR, U. MOSEL

*Institut für Theoretische Physik, Universität Giessen
 Heinrich-Buff-Ring 16
 D-35392 Giessen, Germany
 E-mail: horst.lenske@physik.uni-giessen.de*

Meson production on the proton is described in a coupled channels K-matrix approach. Both hadronic and photonic scenarios are taken into account on the same theoretical footing. At tree-level the Born amplitudes are obtained from an effective Lagrangian with phenomenologically adjustable coupling constants. The spectral distributions, resonances and their width and the background contributions are obtained within the same approach, thus accounting properly for interference effects. Applications to omega- and associated strangeness production on the proton are discussed.

1. Introduction

The nucleon as an entity of strongly interacting constituents is playing the gateway to low-energy QCD as realized in hadrons. Investigating its structure and dynamics by various probes and measuring a variety of observables will complete the much wanted data base on spectral properties of resonances, their excitations and decays, including information about branching ratios into the various meson-nucleon channels. An equally important motivation is the search for *missing resonances* trying to bridge the gap between the number of excited states of the nucleon predicted by quark models and the – at least until now – much fewer resonances seen in pion- or photon-induced reactions. In any respect, research on the nucleon structure will necessarily include the need for a good understanding of reaction dynamics. For that aim a realistic description is necessary, accounting properly for the interplay of various production channels, the interference among resonant and non-resonant parts of the scattering amplitudes. Ac-

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cepting this as a guide line, it is obvious that single channel descriptions in general will fail.

Coupled channel approaches are meeting these goals. They are able to account for the various aspects of meson-nucleon and photon-nucleon interactions and the *cross talk* between the various dynamical sectors. Only with such a more involve description we will be able to distinguish between the dynamical and the intrinsic, QCD related properties of spectral structures observed in cross sections. The Giessen model formulated a few years ago in ^{1,2} and extended subsequently in ^{3,4,5} is in line with these requirements. The model uses a unitary coupled-channel effective Lagrangian approach. It has been successfully applied in the analysis of pion- and photon-induced reactions in the energy region up to 2 GeV. The resonance couplings are simultaneously constrained by available experimental data from all open channels. While our previous analyses ^{3,4} have been restricted to resonances with spin $J \leq \frac{3}{2}$ we have extended the description quite recently to higher spin states ⁶, thus enlarging the model space and increasing the predictive power of the calculations. We now include essentially all channels contributing significantly to the cross sections in the energy region up to 2 GeV. The Giessen model is briefly summarized in sect. 2. We then discuss recent applications to ω -meson production in sect. 3 and to the associated strangeness production in sect. 4. The report closes with a short summary and outlook in sect. 5.

2. The Giessen Model: Coupled Channels K-Matrix Description of Meson Production

The Giessen model describes meson production on the nucleon on the basis of an effective Lagrangian. At the energy scales considered here the appropriate degrees of freedom are the nucleons and hyperons from the basic SU(3) flavor octet and their excited states and, on the meson side, the pseudoscalar and vector meson octet states, supplemented by the photon and the electromagnetic coupling of the hadrons ³. The principal structure of the model at tree-level is depicted in Fig.1. Here, we only briefly discuss the K-matrix part of the approach. The starting point is the decomposition of a Green function into a principal value and pole part given by a Dirac delta-function:

$$G_{bs} \equiv \frac{P}{H - \omega} + i\pi\delta(H - \omega) . \quad (1)$$

With the propagators cast into this form the Bethe-Salpeter equation can be represented by a set of two coupled equations

$$\mathcal{K} = \mathcal{V} + \mathcal{V} \frac{P}{H - \omega} \mathcal{K} \sim \mathcal{V} \quad (2)$$

$$\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{K} + i\mathcal{K}\delta(H - \omega)\mathcal{M} \quad (3)$$

where the first equation defines the K-matrix, corresponding for a Hermitian Born amplitude $\mathcal{V} = \mathcal{V}^\dagger$ to the real part of the scattering amplitude. The solution of the above equation for a multi-channel problem is a matrix containing the scattering amplitudes from channels α to channels β

$$\mathcal{M}_{\alpha\beta} \equiv \left[\frac{\mathcal{K}}{1 - i\mathcal{K}} \right]_{\alpha\beta} \sim \left[\frac{\mathcal{V}}{1 - i\mathcal{V}} \right]_{\alpha\beta} \quad (4)$$

where α and β denote any of the photoproduction or hadronic production channels. The validity and quality of the K-matrix approach has been tested positively by various groups, e.g. ⁷.

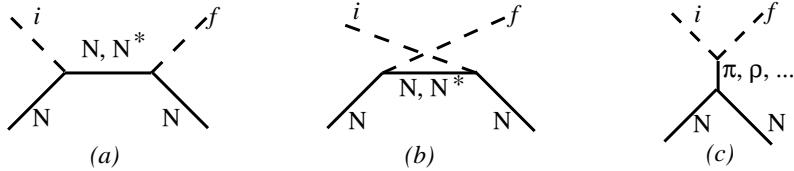


Figure 1. Born-diagrams in the s,u, and t channel contributing to the Bethe-Salpeter equation.

3. ω Meson Production off the Nucleon

In this section our primary interest is the ω meson production in πp and γp reactions, as discussed in detail in ⁸. Most of the theoretical studies of this reaction are based on a rather simplified single channel effective Lagrangian approach, e.g. ^{11,12}. But there is agreement on the importance of the t-channel π_0 -exchange contributions, which were studied by Friman and Soyeur ¹³. However, the claims by the various models on the contributions of different resonances to the ωN final state are controversial ⁸. Compared to our previous findings ^{3,4} we observe significant changes by inclusion of spin- $\frac{5}{2}$ resonance contributions. To provide an additional constraint on the resonance couplings to ωN we also included the recent data on the spin density matrix obtained by the SAPHIR group ¹⁰.

3.1. Hadronic Production: $\pi N \rightarrow \omega N$

All experimental data on the ω -meson production in the πN scattering have been measured before 1980 and therefore have rather poor statistics. In total, there are 115 data points which includes differential and total cross sections data. The inclusion of spin- $\frac{5}{2}$ resonance contributions affects the ωN final state considerably. The main contributions close to the threshold come from the P_{13} and D_{15} partial waves. The resonance part of the production amplitude is dominated by the $D_{15}(1675)$ state⁸. Overall, the inclusion of spin- $\frac{5}{2}$ resonances shifts strength to the P_{13} and D_{15} partial waves.

We also find strong contributions from the P_{13} partial wave to the $\pi N \rightarrow \omega N$ reaction what has been already reported in³. The strength in this partial wave is shifted to the lower energies and becomes more pronounced at the reaction threshold. A peaking behavior seen in the P_{13} partial cross section is due to the interference pattern between P_{13} resonances and background contributions to the ωN channel. Hence, this is a representative example that the collaboration of resonance and background features can produce structures in cross sections which are easily misinterpreted as a resonance. Since the major contributions to the $\pi N \rightarrow \omega N$ reaction come from the P_{13} and D_{15} waves, it is interesting to look at the πN inelasticity for these partial waves which are found in⁸. They lead to the conclusion that probably inelasticities from other channels, e.g. $(3\pi N)$, should also be included.

3.2. Photoproduction: $\gamma N \rightarrow \omega N$

The differential ω meson photoproduction cross sections are presented in Fig.2. With the $\frac{5}{2}$ components included we obtain $\chi^2_{\gamma\omega}=4.5$ which significantly improves our previous result ($\chi^2_{\gamma\omega}=6.25$)^{3,4}. The strong π^0 exchange lead to a peaking behavior of the calculated differential cross sections at forward angles which are clearly visible in the SAPHIR measurements¹⁰ above 1.783 GeV and the theoretical cross sections, both displayed in Fig. 2. More detailed information of the production mechanism is obtained from observables measuring the spin degree of freedom of the ω meson. In the Gottfried-Jackson frame, where the initial photon and exchange particle are in their rest frame, and z -axis is in the direction of the incoming photon momentum, the calculation gives $\rho_{00}^{GJ} = 0$. The experimental value of ρ_{00}^{GJ} for forward directions, where the π^0 exchange dominates, was measured by SAPHIR and found to be in the range of $\rho_{00}^{GJ} = 0.2 \cdots 0.3$. Thus,

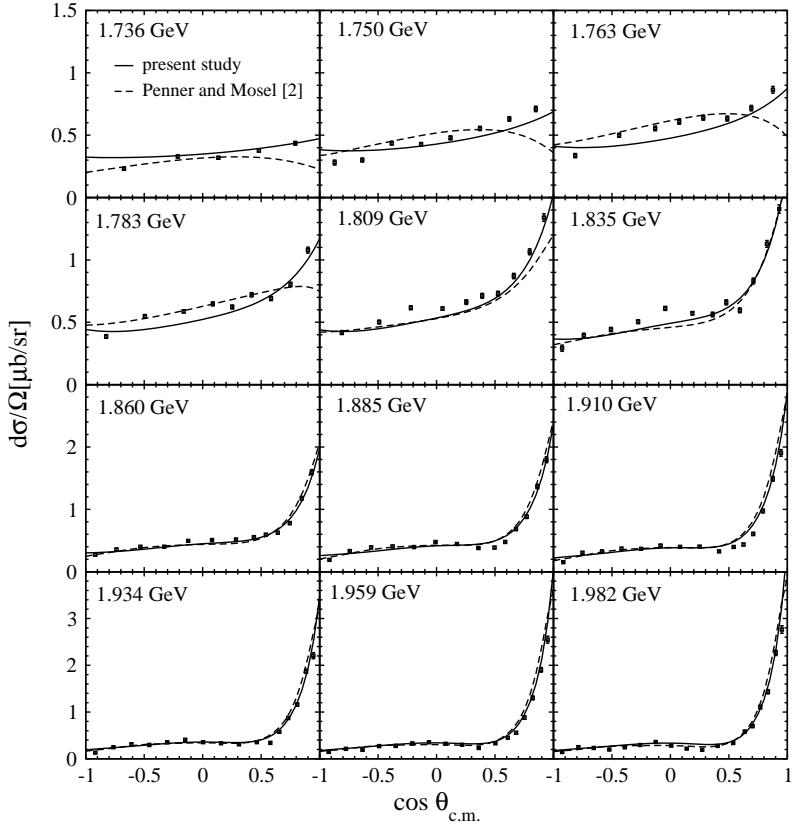


Figure 2. $\gamma N \rightarrow \omega N$ differential cross sections in comparison with the SAPHIR data¹⁰ and our previous results from⁴.

the nonzero matrix element testifies that even in this kinematical region other mechanisms (rescattering effects, interference with resonances) must be important.

Beside the π^0 exchange the largest contributions to ω meson photo-production comes from the subthreshold spin- $\frac{5}{2}$ resonances: $D_{15}(1675)$ and $F_{15}(1680)$. Since the π^0 exchange above 1.8 GeV strongly influences the $\gamma N \rightarrow \omega N$ reaction a consistent identification of individual resonance contributions from only the partial wave decomposition is difficult. The $P_{13}(1900)$, and $F_{15}(2000)$, and $D_{13}(1950)$ states which lie above the reaction threshold hardly influence the reaction due to their small couplings to ωN . Despite of the small relative contribution from the D_{15} and F_{15}

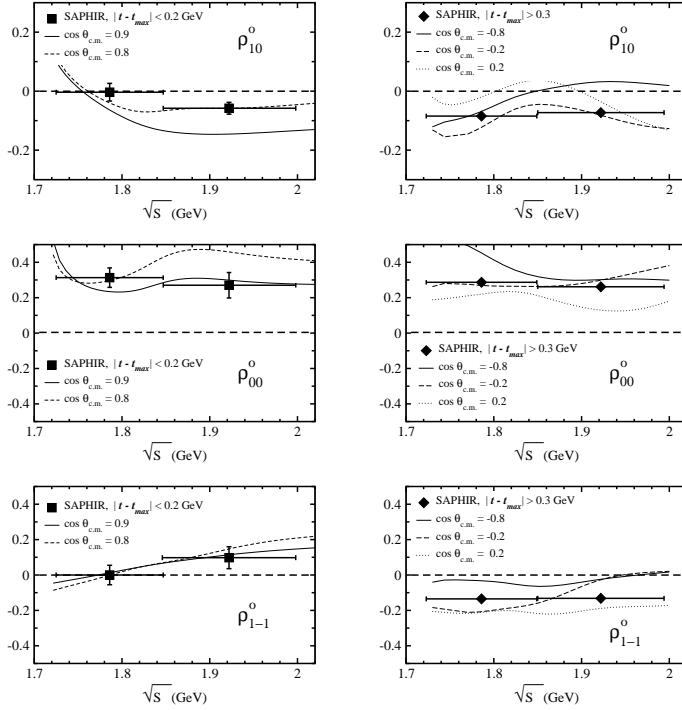


Figure 3. Spin density matrix elements in the helicity frame compared to the SAPHIR measurements ¹⁰.

waves to the ω photoproduction the cross sections are strongly affected by spin- $\frac{5}{2}$ states because of the destructive interference pattern between the π^0 exchange and these resonance contributions.

While $F_{15}(1680)$ plays only a minor role in the $\pi N \rightarrow \omega N$ reaction the contribution from this state becomes more pronounced in the ω meson photoproduction because of its large $A_{\frac{5}{2}}^P$ helicity amplitude. The importance of the $F_{15}(1680)$ resonance to the ω meson photoproduction was also found by Titov and Lee ¹² and by Zhao ¹⁵. However, in contrast to ¹² where also a large effect from $D_{13}(1520)$ was observed we do not find any visible contribution from this state. In fact, as discussed in ⁸ a strong contribution found in the D_{13} partial wave, resembling a resonance structure, comes in fact from non-resonant π^0 exchange.

The spin density matrix elements $\rho_{rr'}$ extracted from the SAPHIR data ¹⁰ are an outcome of the averages over rather wide energy and angle regions,

see Fig. 3. The inclusion of measured $\rho_{rr'}$ into the calculations provides a strong additional constraint on the relative partial wave contributions and finally on the resonance couplings. A satisfactory description of the spin density matrix is obtained in a wide energy region. Since the $\rho_{rr'}$ data put strong constraints on the $\gamma p \rightarrow \omega p$ reaction mechanism there is an urgent need for precise measurements of the spin density matrix in more narrow energy bins to determine the reaction picture. Further details on beam asymmetries are found in ⁸.

4. Associated Strangeness Production on the Nucleon

Since the recent $K\Lambda$ photoproduction data ^{17,18} give an indication for 'missing' resonance contributions, a combined analysis of the $(\pi, \gamma)N \rightarrow K\Lambda$ reactions becomes inevitable to pin down these states. Assuming small couplings to πN , these 'hidden' states should not exhibit themselves in the pion-induced reactions and, consequently, in the $\pi N \rightarrow K\Lambda$ reaction. The decay ratios to the non-strange final states and the electromagnetic properties can be found in ⁸. Our most recent results in the extended approach are given in ⁹. In the that work, we have considered the partially contradicting CLAS and SAPHIR data separately by performing independent fits to either of the two data sets. In the following, the corresponding results are denoted by the indices C and S , respectively.

4.1. Hadronic Strangeness Production: $\pi N \rightarrow K\Lambda$

The S - and C -calculations differ in their description of the non-resonance couplings to $K\Lambda$. As a consequence, different background strengths are obtained for the S_{11} , P_{11} , and P_{13} partial waves while leaving the $P_{13}(1720)$ and $P_{13}(1900)$ resonance couplings almost unchanged ⁹. Comparing the S - and C -parameter sets, the largest difference in the resonance parameters is observed for the $P_{11}(1710)$ state. This resonance is found to be almost completely of inelastic origin with a small branching ratio to πN ⁹. This state gives only a minor contribution to the reaction and the observed difference in the P_{11} partial wave between S - and C -results is due to the Born term and the t -channel exchange contributions.

The calculated differential cross sections corresponding to the S - and C -coupling sets are found in ⁹. Both results show a good agreement with the experimental data in the whole energy region. A difference between the two solutions is only found at forward and backward scattering angles. This is due to the fact that the CLAS photoproduction cross sections rise at

backward angles which is not observed by the SAPHIR group (see discussion below). At other scattering angles the S and C results are very similar. The differences between S - and C -calculations are more pronounced for the Λ -polarization. Again, the main effect is seen at the backward angles where the polarization changes its sign in the C -calculations. Unfortunately, the quality of the data does not allow to determine the reaction mechanism further.

4.2. Photoproduction of Strangeness: $\gamma N \rightarrow K\Lambda$

The older SAPHIR measurements¹⁶ show a resonance-like peak in the total photoproduction cross section around 1.9 GeV. The more recent SAPHIR¹⁷ and CLAS¹⁸ data confirm the previous findings. However, the interpretation of these data is controversial leaving open questions whether in these measurements contributions from presently unknown resonances are observed or if they can be explained by already established reaction mechanisms.

Guided by the results of⁴ we have performed a new coupled-channel study of this reaction using separately the CLAS and SAPHIR measurements as two independent input sets. The main difference between the CLAS and SAPHIR data is seen at backward and forward directions, Fig. 4. Both measurements show two peaks but disagree in the absolute values of the corresponding differential cross sections. Also, the second bump in the CLAS data is shifted to the lower energy 1.8 GeV for the scattering angles corresponding to $\cos \theta = 0.35$ and $\cos \theta = 0.55$.

Similar to $\pi N \rightarrow K\Lambda$ the major difference between the S and C solutions is the treatment of the non-resonant contributions. As seen in Fig. 4, both calculations show two peak structures in the differential cross sections at 1.7 and 1.9 GeV. In both cases the first bump at 1.67 GeV is produced by the $S_{11}(1650)$ resonance. The relative contributions to the second peak at 1.9 GeV are different in the C and S solutions. In the C -calculations this structure is described by the S_{11} partial wave. At higher energies the S_{11} channel is dominated by the non-resonant reaction mechanisms and there is no need to include a third S_{11} resonance, as done e.g. in²⁰. The P_{13} partial wave is entirely driven by the $P_{13}(1720)$ and $P_{13}(1900)$ resonance contributions. Switching off these resonance couplings to $K\Lambda$ leads to an almost vanishing P_{13} partial wave. In the S -calculations no peaking behavior is found in the S_{11} partial wave at 1.95 GeV. However, the non-resonant effects in the S_{11} channel are still important. The role of the P_{13} resonances

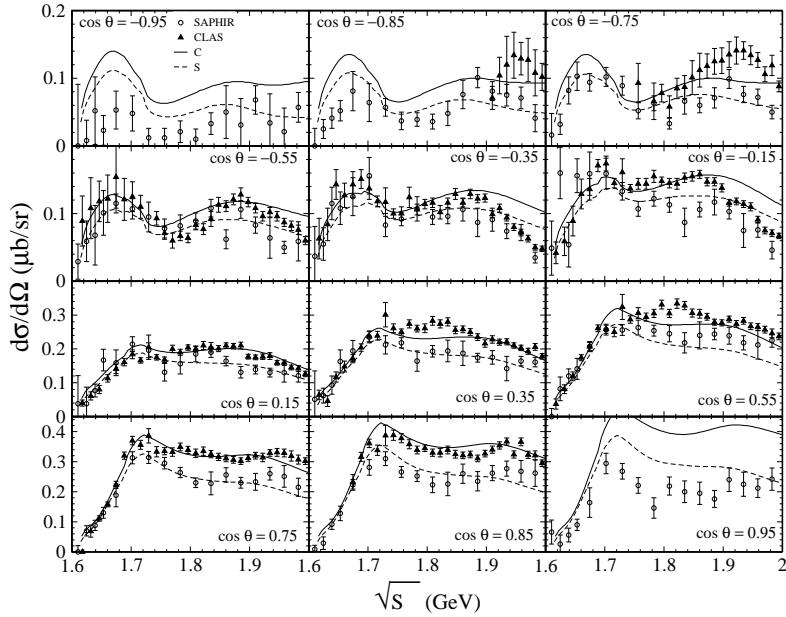
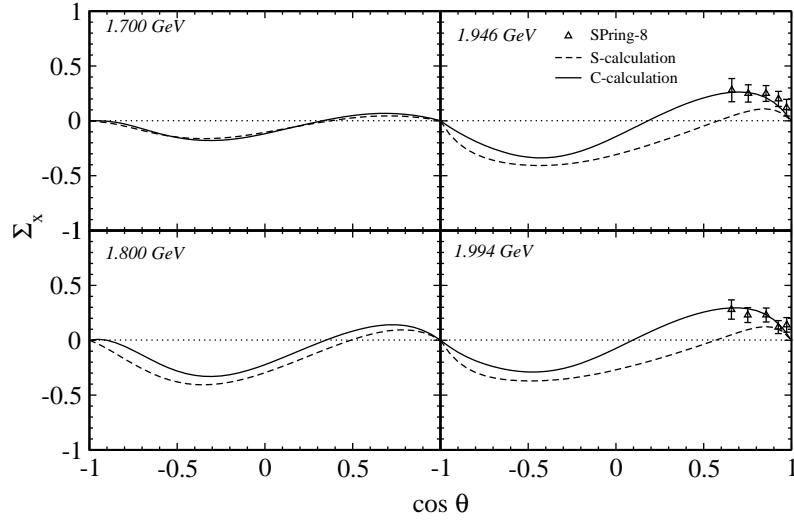
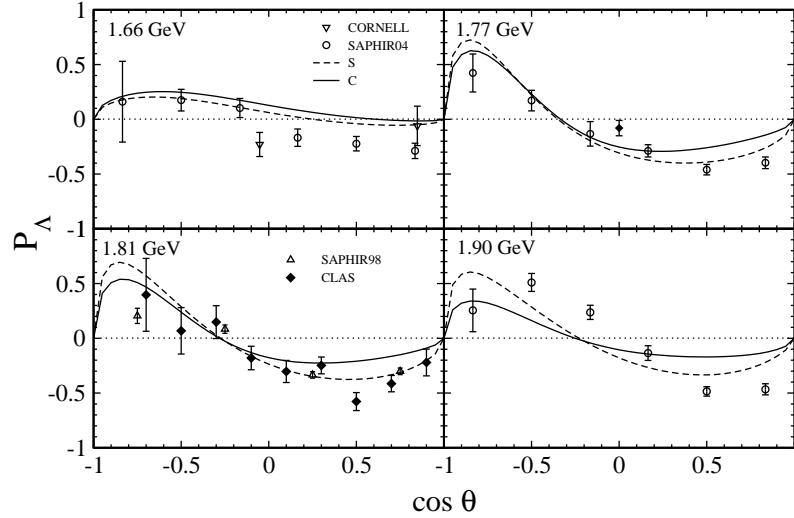


Figure 4. Comparison of the differential cross sections for the reaction $\gamma p \rightarrow K^+\Lambda$ calculated using C and S parameter sets. Experimental data are taken from 18 (CLAS) and 17 (SAPHIR).

are slightly enhanced in the S -calculations. The effect from the $P_{11}(1710)$ resonance is found to be small in both calculations due to destructive interference with the background process. There are no significant contributions from the spin- $\frac{5}{2}$ resonances to the $\gamma N \rightarrow K\Lambda$ reaction.

The calculated photon beam asymmetry Σ_x and recoil polarization P_Λ are shown in Fig. 5 and Fig. 6. Since the beam asymmetry data from the SPring-8 collaboration ²¹ are available only for energies above 1.94 GeV, these measurements give an insignificant constraint on the model parameters. Therefore, the results for the asymmetry might be regarded as a prediction rather than an outcome of the fit. More information comes from the Λ -polarization data. A good description of the Σ_x and P_Λ data is possible in both the C and S calculations.

10

Figure 5. The calculated photon beam asymmetry. Data are taken from ²¹Figure 6. Λ -polarization in the $\gamma p \rightarrow K^+ \Lambda$ reaction. Data are from SAPHIR98 ¹⁶, SAPHIR04 ¹⁷, CLAS ¹⁸, CORNELL ¹⁹.

5. Summary and Outlook

The importance of a controlled treatment of channel coupling for a quantitative understanding of meson production on the nucleon was pointed out.

An approach, fulfilling the – sometimes delicate – balance between flexibility and generality, is given by using a Lagrangian model in conjunction with a decent reaction theory. Such a programm is underlying the Giessen model, describing meson production by a coupled channels K-matrix approach, based on a Lagrangian with phenomenological coupling constants and from factors.

The results for ω meson production and associated strangeness production by $K\Lambda$ processes are convincing in their ability to describe various experimental data, from total and differential cross sections to spin observables. The close connection between hadronic and photonic production channels was discussed for the ωN reaction. In both ωN and $K\Lambda$ reactions the importance of a dynamical treatment of the reaction mechanism as in the Giessen model was evident by the fact that some of the spectral structures were due to quantum mechanical interference phenomena. In order to resolve those effects also in the experimental data, measurements of spin observables play a crucial role.

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